General Assembly

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 55 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/491/Add.1)*]

60/228. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration [1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[2] and its resolutions 57/276 of 20 December 2002, 58/228 of 23 December 2003 and 59/244 of 22 December 2004 on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular paragraph 15 thereof, in which the Heads of State and Government undertook to address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Recognizing the importance of the review of the progress achieved towards meeting the goals and targets contained in the Programme of Action, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as they address the special needs of the least developed countries,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2004 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the

[1] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",[3]

Recalling paragraph 5 of its resolution 59/244, in which it decided to hold the midterm comprehensive global review of the Programme of Action in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action, and recalling also paragraph 6 of the same resolution, in which it decided to consider at its sixtieth session the modalities for conducting such a midterm comprehensive review,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/44 of 27 July 2005 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4]

Taking note of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[5]

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries, and urges all countries and all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, to make concerted efforts and adopt speedy measures for meeting in a timely manner the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[2]

2. *Expresses its deep concern* over the insufficient implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address the areas of weakness in its implementation;

3. *Stresses* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

4. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to ensure at the secretariat level the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, and in this context requests the Secretary-General to engage the United Nations Development Group, consistent with the respective mandates of its members, in the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* to convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly;

6. *Decides also* to convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, preferably on 4, 5 and

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3), chap. III, para. 49.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] A/60/81-E/2005/68.

6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review in order to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

7. *Stresses* that the midterm comprehensive global review should assess the progress made in the implementation of commitments and provide the occasion to reaffirm the goals and objectives agreed upon at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to share best practices and lessons learned, and to identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, for consideration by Member States, a note on the organizational aspects of the high-level meeting;

9. *Requests* the regional commissions to assist the least developed countries in undertaking regional reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action in their respective regions in preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review in 2006 by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session;

10. *Emphasizes* that the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action is of particular significance as it will provide an opportunity for the international community, in particular the least developed countries and their development partners, to discuss the implementation of the Programme of Action with a view to ensuring support for the least developed countries in all areas, in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the decade;

11. *Requests* the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of civil society actors in the preparatory process, and in this regard requests the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as an input to the midterm comprehensive global review;

13. *Calls upon* all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the midterm comprehensive global review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, and in this context calls upon the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation;

15. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the midterm comprehensive global review, in particular at the country level, including in the preparation of national reports;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, a comprehensive report for the midterm comprehensive global review;

17. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the midterm comprehensive global review of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the process of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review;

18. *Welcomes* the pledges already made by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the preparatory process, and calls upon Member States and invites other multilateral development partners, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolution 59/244;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the midterm comprehensive global review;

20. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

69th plenary meeting
23 December 2005